

SENATE—Tuesday, June 19, 2001

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable THOMAS R. CARPER, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, You have called us to be creative thinkers. We begin this day by yielding our thinking brains to Your magnificent creativity. You know everything; You also know what is best for us and the Nation You have entrusted to the care of this Senate. We are grateful that You not only are omniscient but also omnipresent. You are here in this Chamber and will be with the Senators and their staffs wherever this day's responsibilities take them. We take seriously the admonition of Proverbs 16:3: "Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established."

Thank You for this secret of success in Your Word. In response we look to what is ahead this day and thank you in advance for supernatural intelligence to maximize our thinking. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable THOMAS R. CARPER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 19, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS R. CARPER, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARPER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we will be in a period for morning business until 11:30 this morning. By virtue of a previous unanimous-consent agreement, Senators KYL and BROWBACK will be in control of the time until 10:45 a.m. and Senator DURBIN will be in control of the time from 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

At 11:30 this morning, Majority Leader DASCHLE will be in the Chamber to move to begin consideration of the Patients' Bill of Rights. As Members know, this legislation has been around for years, and the leader is going to announce at 11:30 a.m. today his movement toward consideration of that bill. We expect to be able to move to it. We hope the minority will not have any problems with our going to that bill.

Majority Leader DASCHLE will announce at 11:30 a.m. that we are going to finish that bill before the July 4 recess. That means if there are problems moving to the bill and cloture has to be filed, we will work this weekend and perhaps the next weekend to complete this legislation.

The Senate will be in recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. today for our weekly party conferences.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the time until 10:30 a.m. shall be under the control of the Senator from Arizona, Mr. KYL.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S EUROPEAN TRIP

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, President Bush has just returned from his trip to Europe, and the newspapers are full of glowing accounts. Some of the headlines include the following: "Europe sees Bush's Trip Exceeding Expectations." That from the New York Times on June 18. The International Herald Tribune: "President Climbs in European Esteem."

Similarly, other headlines and stories noted the fact that the President

was successful in communicating his views on a wide variety of subjects, including most especially our view of national security issues and specifically the question of missile defense.

I want to spend a few minutes talking about the President's successful trip, his vision for the future in a new post-cold-war era, and the acceptance of those views by most of our allies and even, to some extent, by those whom he characterizes as friends, countries that could, indeed, someday perhaps be allies, countries such as Russia, following especially his visit with President Putin during the course of this trip.

I think the pundits had a good time as the President was preparing for his trip, speculating about whether this President, who had not extensively traveled abroad and did not have a great deal of international experience, would be able to impress these savvy international leaders.

What they found—and it was interesting—on the Sunday morning talk shows they were all doing a little bit of a retreat, which pleased me because I had seen the same kind of questioning of the President when he was beginning his run for the Presidency as Governor of Texas.

There were those who said: He is a very congenial fellow, but does he really have what it takes? I think we all saw, and even my Democratic colleagues who supported Vice President Gore at the time concluded, that this is a man who not only has great charm but also significant substance and a view of the world which is in keeping with the times as we commence our journey into this 21st century.

He proved that during the campaign. He proved it in domestic affairs, achieving a milestone of success with the tax cuts we passed and he signed into law a little over a week ago, and then this foreign trip, which was the first major trip, the trip to Europe, to visit with our NATO allies and other leaders in the region. We heard the same kind of questions: Was the President prepared to meet these leaders?

There is a problem here, Mr. President, as you know, and that is that most of the countries of Western Europe—the majority, I should say—are governed by left-of-center political leaders. They are, obviously, not of the same political viewpoint as President Bush, but our alliance with our NATO allies has gone through a series of changes where we have had generally conservative leadership, more left-of-center leadership, and then a combination of the two.